

COMMUNION OF SAINTS / ANNIVERSARY / HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY

November 1, 2020

*Armour Heights – 1951, Melrose Park – 1938
Amalgamation – 1998*

Organ Prelude: Toccata in D minor

J. S. Bach

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We gather for worship because we want to grow ever new faith, hope and love to meet the challenges of our times.

ALL: We gather for worship because we want to be inspired and empowered before a higher mystery, a higher reality, a higher truth and justice than me, myself and I.

We gather for worship to rediscover a larger belonging within what we in the church call the communion of saints, a belonging that also summons us to a larger accountability and responsibility for our lives.

ALL: We gather for worship in order to discern deeper wisdom and insight as to what is true and just in a world of: we-can-make-it-whatever-we-want-it-to-be-and-to-sell to others and to ourselves.

O Ground of all being, come to us as we worship...

ALL: Speak to us at the heart level, and lift us up to the higher humanity you have called us to live.

Hymn: "For all the saints"

No. 611

1. For all the saints
who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith
before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

4. O blest communion!
fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle,
they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

7. But lo, there breaks
a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant
rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

8. From earth's wide bounds,
from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl
streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Prayer of Approach, Confession & Restoration

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: "O what their joy and their glory must be"

Abelard

soloists Joanne Nasmith, Radostina Borisova, Elias Theocharidis, and Jim Nasmith, with organist Bruce Nasmith

Scripture Readings: Joshua 3:7-17, Revelation 4:1-11, 5:6-14, Matthew 23:1-12

Joshua 3:7-17

7 The LORD said to Joshua, 'This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. 8 You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, "When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan." ' 9 Joshua then said to the Israelites, 'Draw near and hear the words of the LORD your God.' 10 Joshua said, 'By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites... 12 So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. 13 When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap.'

14 When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. 15 Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, 16 the waters flowing from above stood still... Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. 17 While all Israel were crossing over on dry

ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

Revelation 4:1-11

1 After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' 2 At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! 3 And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald.

4 Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads...

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind... Day and night without ceasing they sing,

'Holy, holy, holy,

the Lord God the Almighty,

who was and is and is to come.'

9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

11 'You are worthy, our Lord and God,

to receive glory and honour and power,

for you created all things,

and by your will they existed and were created.'

CH.5: 6 Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered...

7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. 8 When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb,

each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God

saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;

10 you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,

and they will reign on earth.'

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12singing with full voice,
'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!'

13Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,
'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!'

14And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshipped.

Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2'The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; 3therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what they teach. 4They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. 5They do all their deeds to be seen by others... 6They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, 7and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have people call them rabbi. 8But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. 9And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. 10Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. 11The greatest among you will be your servant. 12All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

We are listening, O God;
Speak to us!

Sermon: **THREE KINDS OF AUTHORITY**
(Full sermon can be found at the end of the bulletin)

Dr. Harris

Special Music: "Because we believe"

soloist Elias Theocharidis with pianist Bruce Nasmith

David Foster

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again! Hallelujah!

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer after Communion:

O Ground of all being, the bread and wine we have eaten represents the life and spirit of your beloved child and our beloved Lord. We know we are not alone. We are surrounded by the communion of your everyday saints, our ancestors who live with you and invisibly among us in that other dimension of reality we call heaven. In our reverence and humility exalt us to a higher humanity. May your truth and justice be discerned for our time and place, as we seek to serve you with humility, compassion, and a sincere desire to seek out not our own interest, but a larger goodness; Amen.

1. They did not build in vain
who founded here a church
as witness to God's love
amid a world of pain,
for still to those who wish to see
this place proclaims God's mystery.

2. They built upon the rock
that is the risen Lord,
the one foundation laid
which stands each earthly shock;
that, Spirit filled, we here might raise,
as living temples, prayer and praise.

3. Those who have loved this place,
a cloud of witnesses,
surround and urge us on

as we now run our race,
and so we lay aside each sin
in our desire to strive and win.

4. Though the horizon's bend
conceals the way ahead,
the footprints on the road
show Christ waits at the end;
in him alone our faith shall stand
who waits for us at God's right hand.

5. Here is our meeting place
where doubt finds grounds of faith,
where hurt finds healing love,
our penitence your grace;
where bridging time to eternity
is God the holy Trinity.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Fugue in D minor

J. S. Bach

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Administrator & Manager of Community Engagement

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